



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - July 9, 2002

- ***In the West***, isolated showers in the ***Four Corners region*** are providing little relief from historically dry conditions that are straining irrigation reserves and severely stressing rangelands. Meanwhile, hot weather is expanding into the ***Northwest***, increasing stress on dryland summer crops.
- ***On the Plains***, cooler weather and showers are aiding reproductive small grains across ***northern areas***, including the ***Dakotas***. Meanwhile, pastures and dryland summer crops are in need of rain on the ***central Plains***, but are benefiting from recent soil moisture improvements from ***Oklahoma southward***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, beneficial showers are spreading across ***eastern portions of the region***, maintaining generally favorable conditions for summer crop development. Meanwhile in the ***western Corn Belt***, where corn and soybeans are approaching or entering reproduction, hot weather prevails (today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 90 to 95 degrees F) and soil moisture is limited, despite recent showers.
- ***In the South***, a tropical disturbance is approaching the ***western Gulf Coast***, providing beneficial showers for dryland summer crops in the ***lower Rio Grande Valley and coastal Texas***. Meanwhile, dry weather is allowing flooding to subside across ***south-central Texas***. Elsewhere, significant shower activity is confined to ***Florida's peninsula***, where citrus groves have adequate to excessive moisture. In contrast, soil moisture shortages persist in several areas, including parts of the ***Delta*** and much of the ***southern Atlantic region***.

Outlook: Later today, showers will accompany a cold front across the ***Ohio Valley, New England, and Mid-Atlantic States***. Meanwhile, a slow-moving storm system will bring periods of rain to the ***northern and central Plains***, while showers and thunderstorms will persist in the ***Southeast, Delta, and southern Plains***. For the remainder of the week, hot, dry weather will continue across the ***West***, although isolated showers are likely in the ***Southwest***. By week's end, dry weather will prevail in the ***Northeast and Corn Belt***, while the ***South*** will remain wet. Hot, dry conditions are forecast across the ***West***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 14-18 calls for above-normal temperatures across the ***north-central U.S.***, while below-normal temperatures are likely in the ***south-central U.S.*** Precipitation is forecast to be above normal in ***northern parts of the West***, across the ***southern Plains***, and from the ***Appalachians eastward***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected across the ***western Corn Belt***.

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